

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 98-160, § 703(4)(D), substituted "the veteran" for "he".

**IMPROVEMENT IN PENSION PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION;
REPORT TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES**

Pub. L. 99-166, title I, § 108(d), Dec. 3, 1985, 99 Stat. 947, provided that:

"(1) In order to improve the timeliness of adjustments made pursuant to section 3203(a) of title 38, United States Code, in the amount of pension being paid to a veteran who is being furnished nursing home care by the Veterans' Administration, the Chief Medical Director of the Veterans' Administration shall develop improved procedures for notifying the Chief Benefits Director of the Veterans' Administration when a veteran is admitted to a nursing home.

"(2) The Administrator shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the development and implementation of such procedures. The report shall be submitted not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 3, 1985]."

REGULATIONS; WAIVER FOR HARDSHIP REASONS

Section 402(b) of Pub. L. 98-543 provided that: "The Administrator shall prescribe regulations under subparagraph (C) of section 3203(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 24, 1984]."

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 314, 3012 of this title.

CHAPTER 57—RECORDS AND INVESTIGATIONS

SUBCHAPTER I—RECORDS

§ 3301. Confidential nature of claims

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 629, 3302, 4005 of this title.

§ 3303. Certification of records of District of Columbia

When a copy of any public record of the District of Columbia is required by the Veterans' Administration to be used in determining the eligibility of any person for benefits under laws administered by the Veterans' Administration, the official custodian of such public record shall without charge provide the applicant for such benefits or any person (including any veterans' organization) acting on the veteran's behalf or the authorized representative of the Veterans' Administration with a certified copy of such record.

(As amended Pub. L. 99-576, title VII, § 701(78), Oct. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 3298.)

AMENDMENTS

1986—Pub. L. 99-576 substituted "the veteran's" for "his".

§ 3305. Confidentiality of medical quality-assurance records

(a) Records and documents created by the Veterans' Administration as part of a medical quality-assurance program (other than reports submitted pursuant to section 4152(b) of this title) are confidential and privileged and may not be disclosed to any person or entity except as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) [See main edition for text of (1) to (5)]

(6) Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing or requiring withholding from any person or entity the disclosure of statistical information regarding Veterans' Administration health-care programs (including such information as aggregate morbidity and mortality rates associated with specific activities at individual Veterans' Administration health-care facilities) that does not implicitly or explicitly identify individual Veterans' Administration patients or employees or individuals who participated in the conduct of a medical quality-assurance review.

[See main edition for text of (c) to (e)]

(As amended Pub. L. 99-166, title II, § 201, Dec. 3, 1985, 99 Stat. 949.)

AMENDMENTS

1985—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99-166, § 201(1), inserted "(other than reports submitted pursuant to section 4152(b) of this title)" after "program".

Subsec. (b)(6). Pub. L. 99-166, § 201(2), added par. (6).

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 4152 of this title.

CHAPTER 59—AGENTS AND ATTORNEYS

§ 3401. Prohibition against acting as claims agent or attorney

Except as provided by section 500 of title 5, no individual may act as an agent or attorney in the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of any claim under laws administered by the Veterans' Administration unless such individual has been recognized for such purposes by the Administrator.

(As amended Pub. L. 99-576, title VII, § 701(79), Oct. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 3298.)

AMENDMENTS

1986—Pub. L. 99-576 substituted "such individual" for "he".

§ 3402. Recognition of representatives of organizations

(a)(1) The Administrator may recognize representatives of the American National Red Cross, the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the United Spanish War Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and such other organizations as the Administrator may approve, in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims under laws administered by the Veterans' Administration.

(2) The Administrator may, in the discretion of the Administrator, furnish, if available, space and office facilities for the use of paid full-time representatives of national organizations so recognized.

(b) No individual shall be recognized under this section—

(1) unless the individual has certified to the Administrator that no fee or compensation of any nature will be charged any individual for